

Why should we be concerned?

The 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among Wisconsin high school students:

Sexual Activity

- 40% have had sexual intercourse (same percentage for both male and female students).
- 29% have had sexual intercourse with at least one partner in the last three months.
- 27% of males and 19% of females used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse with use increasing significantly among females since 1993.
- African American, American Indian and Hispanic youth are significantly more likely to report having had sexual intercourse than their White and Asian counterparts (67%, 53%, 46% vs. 36% and 30%, respectively). (DHFS, January 2006)

Adult/Child Communication

- 48% reported discussing AIDS or HIV infection with an adult family member, down from 58% in 1993.

Condoms and Contraception

- 35% of students who reported having had sexual intercourse in the last three months did not use a condom.
- 22% of students who reported having had sexual intercourse did not use a condom, birth control pill, or Depo-Provera the last time they had sexual intercourse.

The *Wisconsin Youth Sexual Behavior and Outcomes* publication states that from 1993-2004, among youth ages 15-19:

Pregnancy

- The birth rate decreased for all racial/ethnic groups, except Hispanics.
- The birth rate for Hispanics increased 15%.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

- The overall rate of four sexually transmitted diseases (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and genital herpes) increased 3%.
- Chlamydia is the predominant infection among youth. The rate of chlamydia infections has increased 26%.
- The rate of STDs among African American youth is 5 times the total rate for all Wisconsin youth of the same ages.

What are the solutions?

Provide multi-strategy programs that address the comprehensive needs of youth, including:

- K-12 skill-based health education addressing risk reduction and abstinence.
- Early and ongoing parental involvement.
- School engagement.
- Education on social norms.
- Properly prepared educators.
- Developing youth assets.
- Culturally appropriate teaching strategies.
- Evidence-based sexual risk behavior prevention programs.
- Program links to alcohol and drug use.
- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS policies, including attendance of students with HIV/AIDS and confidentiality.

What is the status?

The 2004 Wisconsin School Health Education Profiles indicates that among Wisconsin middle/junior and senior high schools:

Health Education

The vast majority of teachers (90% or greater) tried to increase student knowledge of each of the following topics:

- HIV prevention.
- Human sexuality.
- Pregnancy prevention.
- STD prevention.

Health Education teachers taught each of the following sexuality education topics in a required health education course:

- Abstinence as the most effective method to avoid HIV infection (98%).
- How to correctly use a condom (55%).
- Influence of alcohol and other drugs on HIV related risk behaviors (95%).
- How to find valid information or services related to HIV or HIV testing (80%).

The 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that:

Youth Assets

Wisconsin high school students who reported strong family and teacher support, felt connected to their schools, and were successful in schools (mostly As and Bs), were less likely to:

- Engage in risky behavior.
- Drink alcohol.
- Smoke marijuana.

Resources

Educators' Resource Center for Youth Sexual Risk Behavior Prevention Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/hivrcindex.html>

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services <http://dhfs.state.wi.us>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Adolescent and School Health
www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/index.htm

References

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy. *Wisconsin Youth Sexual Behavior and Outcomes, 1993-2005* (PPH 5706). February 2006.
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/stats/s-behyouth.htm>

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy. Tracking the State Health Plan, 2010-State Level Data. January 2006.
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan/track2010/pdf/data/F1ainterhss.pdf>

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, School Health Education Profile
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/shepindex.html>

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Youth Risk Behavior Survey
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbsindx.html>

October 2006



Contact Information: Emily Holder, Department of Public Instruction, (608) 267-9170,
emily.holder@dpi.state.wi.us